

**Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1**

SOFT-BODIED POPPERS

BY: ANTHONY HIPPS

Hipps SB Poppers

Photo By Dave Klausmeyer

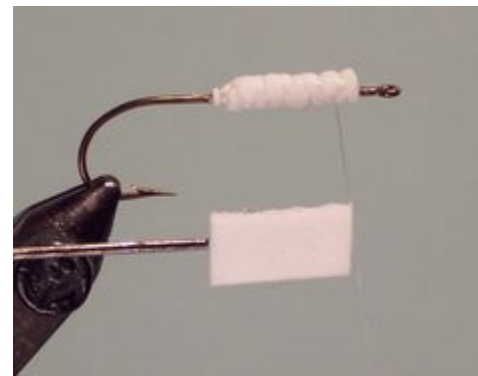


Foam, Paint and Gloss for SB Poppers



Underbody Tying Directions Steps 1-3

1. **Start the thread on the hook's shank and cover the shank with thread from the hook's point to an eye width behind the hook's eye. Let the tying thread hang at the front of the thread wraps.**
2. **Cut a rectangular strip of foam. This piece of foam should extend from slightly behind the hook's eye to past the kink in the hook's shank. The foam strip should be just wide enough to barely fold over the hook's shank.**
3. **Coat the thread wraps with glue and fold the foam over the hook's shank. With finger and gentle thread pressure, wrap the thread back to the rear of the foam with evenly spaced wraps while simultaneously moving your hand backward. Increase the thread pressure at the rear of the foam to securely bind the rear of the foam to the hook's shank.**

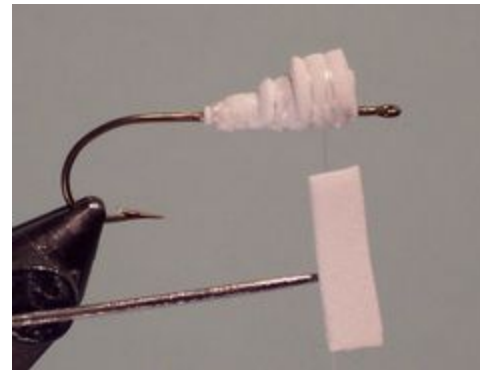


Underbody Tying Directions Steps 4-5

4. **Cut a foam strip for the second layer of foam. This piece should be half as wide as the first layer, and like the first layer, it should just touch on the bottom of the hook. Apply adhesive and repeat the process followed in step 3 for tying this layer of foam to the body.**

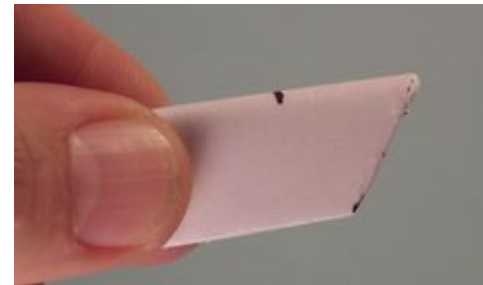
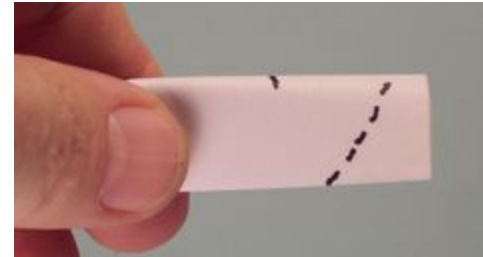


5. **Since we are using a size 4 hook in this tying sequence, we need to add one more layer of foam for the underbody. In this photo the foam layer has already been glued and tied to the second layer in the same manner as the other foam strips have been applied. The strip that is shown was the proper sized strip to add to the body, half as wide as the second strip.**



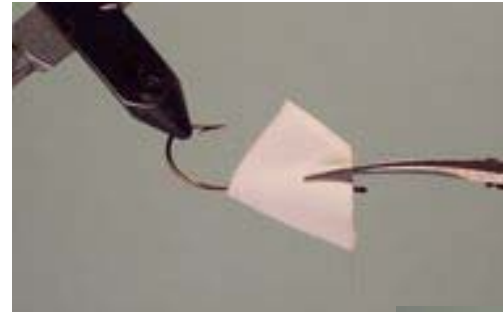
Preparing the Outer Shell

6. You may use adhesive backed foam for the outer shell. Cut a rectangle of foam that is slightly wider and slightly longer than you will need for the outer shell. Fold the sheet in half as shown.
7. Cut the folded foam at an angle to form the popper's face. The dotted line shows how to cut the foam at an angle. Then, hold the folded foam against the hook shank. Cut the back end of the foam so that the shell extends slightly past the underbody.
8. Remove the paper backing from the foam to expose the adhesive side. Now, apply the piece of foam to the hook. Be sure to slide the shell slightly forward to form the cupped popper face. Press down on top of the shell and fold the foam completely around the underbody. Press the foam sheet firmly together on the bottom of the hook's shank.

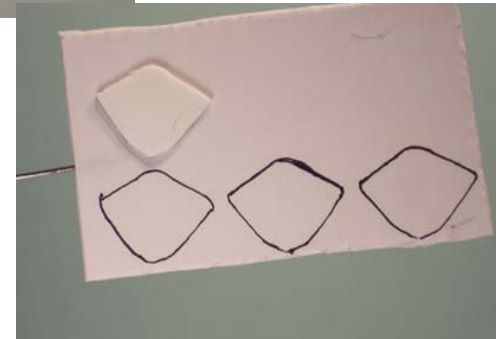


Preparing the Outer Shell (cont.)

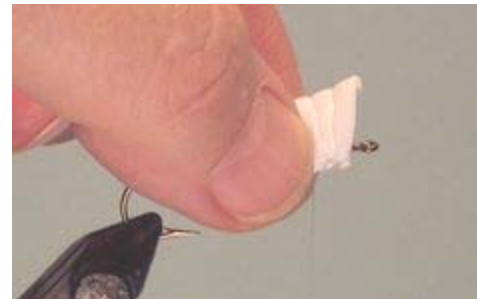
9. Use your scissors to trim the excess foam flush with the bottom of the hook's shank.



10. This is the way the popper body should look after step 8 has been completed. Unwrap the outer shell to use as a template.



11. Wrap the thread over the foam shell. Make evenly spaced wraps of thread and use just enough thread pressure to hold the foam outer shell in place. But don't compress the foam. Foam is springy and the thread holds it together and adds durability to the body.



12. Tie the rear of the foam down hard, tie a whip finish and remove the thread. Apply adhesive to the seam along the bottom of the body and the whip finish.



Painting the Popper Body

13. **Paint the body by squeezing paint directly and evenly from the fabric paint bottle tip. No brush is required. Completely coat the foam body. Don't worry if the paint isn't totally smooth when it's first applied. The paint will even itself out as it dries. Holding the hook in forceps makes it easier to apply the paint without getting it on your fingers. After the paint has been applied, let the paint dry for at least two hours before touching the painted surface.**
14. **These photos show the painted popper body while the paint is still wet. It illustrates the easy use of three-dimensional fabric paint to apply multiple colors.**



Finishing the Popper Body

15. **This photo shows a completely detailed and varnished popper body.**
16. **Apply eyes by using stick-on models or by painting them. Details such as stripes, spots and gills can be drawn on the painted body with a permanent marker.**
17. **After all the painting and marking is finished, and the body is completely dried, it's time to apply the varnish to finish the body. Dip the popper head in a container of polyurethane varnish. Allow the excess varnish to drip off the popper back into the container. Place the popper head on a slow rotary device to dry for ten minutes. If you don't have a rotary device put the fly back in your rotary vice and rotate the fly with it for a few minutes to begin the drying process. Two or three coats of varnish are sufficient.**

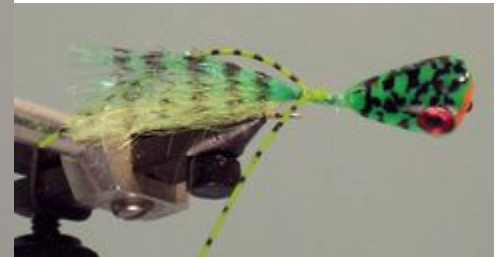


Tailing the Popper

18. Now it's time to build the tail. Re-attach the tying thread behind the body and tie in any synthetic or natural hair or flash material that you desire. Color the material with permanent markers if you choose. The tail should be at least as long as the hook.



19. Now attach one rubber strand on each side of the tail. The rubber strands should be slightly longer than the other materials.



20. Use an appropriately sized rooster saddle or neck hackle for the collar/skirt. Wrap the hackle for as many wraps as it takes to fill up the space between the base of the tail and the head. Tie off the thread and coat the thread wraps with head cement or super glue.

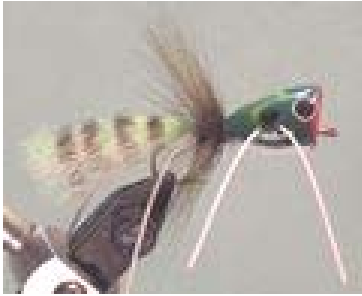


Adding Legs to the Popper Body

21. **The final step is to give your popper some rubber legs. This is easily done with a sewing needle with an eye large enough to accomodate 3/0 tying thread.**
22. **Place the tip end of one rubber strand in the thread loop and pull the strand through the popper body so that you end up with legs of equal length on the far and near side of the body. Next, push the needle through the body, at an opposite angle to the first leg, so that the second leg will will form an "X" through the middle of the popper's body.**
23. **Here is how your completed Hipp's Soft-Foam Popper should look after the rubber hackle legs have been installed.**



Other SB Patterns

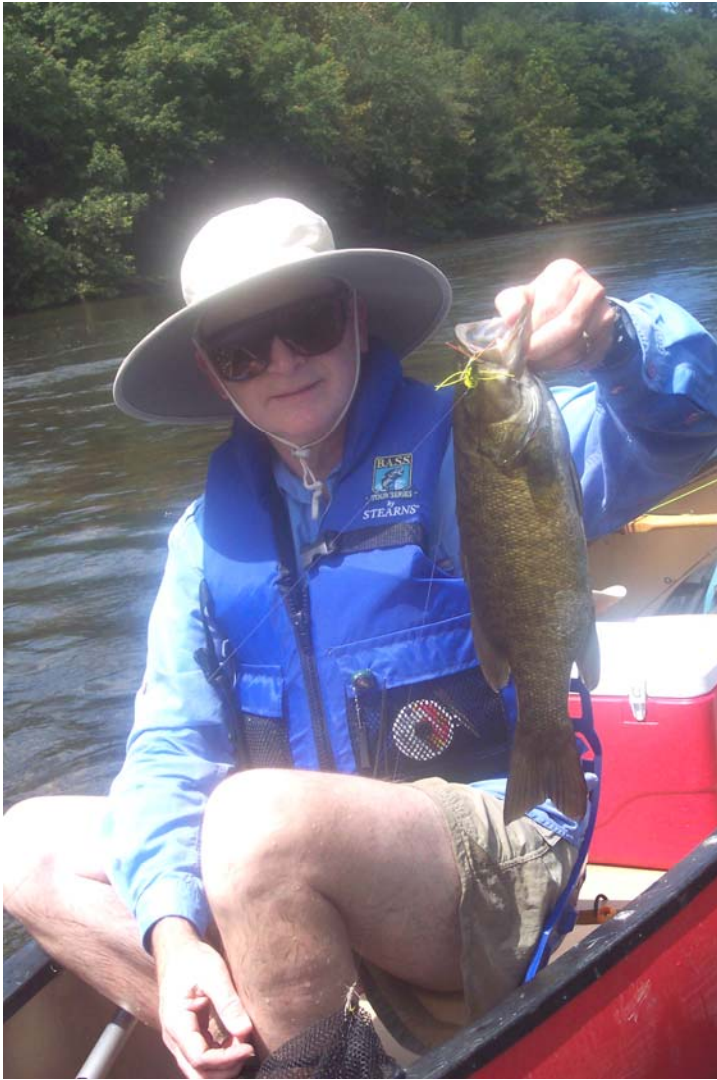


Bass Popper #6 Assortment

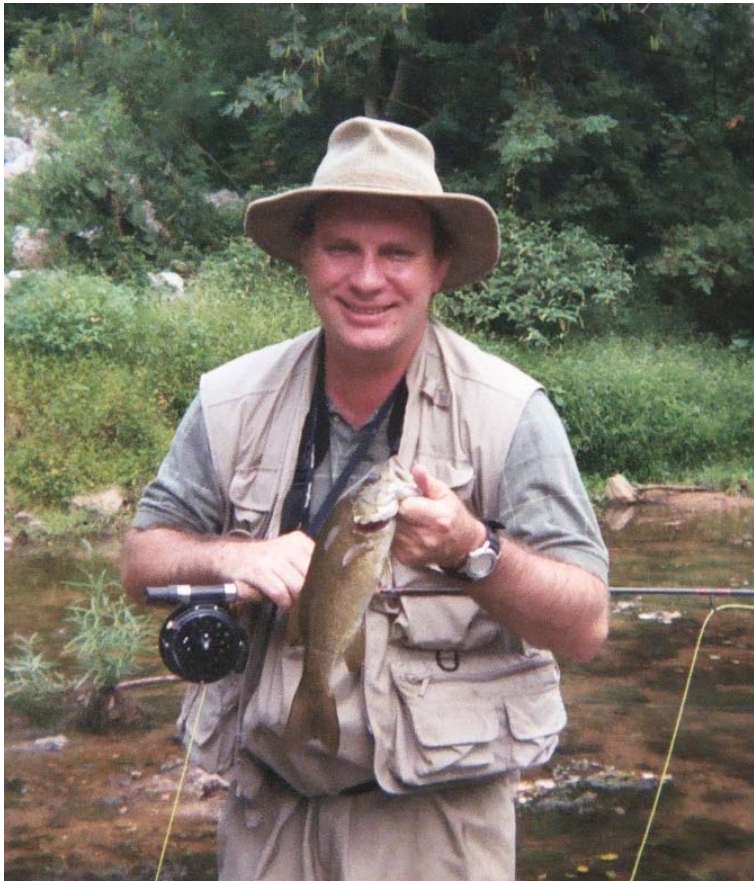
Photo by Jeff Wilkins



Do they Work?



Even I catch Fish Sometime!



Uhwarrie River Smallie on Popper



What its really about



You're the best
fishing buddy ever.
I liked fishing
with you.
I mean that.
Hands
down.
Thanks for the
pictures.
love, max



I Love Fishing with Kids



The Biggest Kid I have Fished With



Acknowledgements

- **Lord and Saviour – Romans 5:8: “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**
- **My Devoted Wife – Robin**
- **My Parents and Parents-In-Law for their support**
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- **www.warmwaterflytyer.com – Ward Bean**
- **www.riverroadcreations.com – Tony Tomsu**
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- **Lots Of Other Friends Who Have Been a Blessing to Me**